

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An improved apparatus and method for the prevention of deformation and buckling of metal plates during welding processes is disclosed. The improved apparatus and method are used to apply pressure to a welded seam created between two metal plates during the welding process. Pressure is applied to the area of the plates surrounding the welded seam until the welded seam has sufficiently cooled to prevent deformation and buckling of the metal plates.